

Washington Medicaid Integration Partnership Implementation Committee

Report 2

Date: May 17, 2004

Meeting date: The Implementation Committee met on May 13, 2004. Attending were: Assistant Secretary MAA; **Kathy Leitch**, Assistant Secretary ADSA; **Tim Brown**, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary HRSA, **Ed Hidano**, Director of Integration Initiatives, and **MaryAnne Lindeblad**, Director, Division of Program Support, MAA (representing **Doug Porter**, Assistant Secretary, MAA, and Committee Chair). Others attending: **Elizabeth Kohlenberg**, Director of Research and Data Analysis; **Karl Brimmer**, Director, Mental Health Division, HRSA; **Alice Lind**, Lead, WMIP Project; **Darlene Vernon**, MHD, **Harvey Perez**, DASA, **Brett Lawton**, MAA, **Becky McAninch-Dake**, MAA, **David Mancuso**, RDA; **Bill Moss**, ADSA.

Charter for Advisory Committee

Agenda item: The Committee was presented with a revised staff outline for the project's continuing efforts to maintain an effective liaison with stakeholders in Snohomish County as well as a separate outline of responsibilities prepared by stakeholders and county representatives in Snohomish County.

Discussion: Project staff reported on their recent discussions with Snohomish County providers and county government representatives, noting the community's continuing dissatisfaction with the staff-prepared charter for the Snohomish County Community Advisory Committee. The group, chaired by the county's Human Services Director, submitted its own draft outline of responsibilities, including a list of functions that centered on local monitoring of the WMIP project, its effect on clients and providers, and the responsibility to report those observations and analysis to the Implementation Committee. The group also recommended limiting the Advisory Committee's membership to county officials and other stakeholders, including clients participating in the project and clients who opted out. Implementation Committee members indicated

they felt the group raised valid points and that their recommendations were generally in line with the scope of a true advisory committee. The discussion focused in general on finding common elements between the two outlines and accommodating all reasonable elements of the local group's recommendations.

Resolution: The Committee agreed with a key principle of the county's outline, which held that local representatives including local state staff should make up the membership of the advisory committee. The Committee also reiterated its previous stance that the Snohomish community representatives should serve in an advisory capacity, not as decision makers. The Committee directed the WMIP staff to redraft the committee's list of functions to:

- 1) Focus on local members and require project staff to attend meetings on a liaison basis
- 2) Guarantee regular opportunities for stakeholders to direct feedback to the Implementation Committee and the Project Team
- 3) Work for agreement between project staff and local representatives so there is a degree of comfort on how local input can be received and acknowledged.

Next steps: Present the redrafted options to community representatives in Everett on Monday, May 17.

WMIP Pilot Project Timetable

Agenda Item: The single respondent on the WMIP Request for Proposal was Molina Healthplans of Washington, and staff briefed the Implementation Committee on issues that will require evaluation and review.

Discussion: RFP evaluation staff discussed the timeline of the proposal review. Several elements still need to be submitted for review, such as the formulary and the provider network. Staff will conduct a site visit as planned in June. Members of the Implementation Committee were told that technical assistance and follow-up for the roll-out of the complete package of DSHS benefits will require additional time. The follow-up to Molina will request an implementation schedule beginning January 1, 2005.

Resolution: The Committee agreed to a postponement of the integrated set of benefits to January 1, 2005. Committee members also directed project staff to share the implementation delay at their Monday, May 17, meeting with Snohomish County representatives in Everett.

Next Steps:

- 1) MAA staff plan a site visit at Molina's Bothell offices on June 16-18 to interview staff, examine records and review the plan's capacity for the work involved in the proposal.
- 2) MAA project staff will discuss the timetable changes with Snohomish County representatives in Everett and report that conversation to the Implementation Committee.

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: June 10, 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WMIP:

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